

Councillor Dave Jackson – February report

I was sorry that I could not attend the flooding meeting at Sandford St Martin on February 4th, as I was away. But fortunately, the chair of SBPC was there to update us on progress.

I have had more clarification with the timescale for the local government re-organisation. As stated before, the WODC Bartons ward will disappear in 2028. But in 2027, there will be an election in a new "enlarged" Bartons ward for the proposed "shadow" unitary authority. Hence for a year there will be in effect three councillors serving our area. I am assuming the new shadow unitary councillor will take the opportunity of getting to know the parish councils in the area.

I managed to make a start on pothole marking on January 24th up Church Lane when it was a dry day, but subsequently the wet conditions have made it impossible. A couple of residents have been in touch about the state of the roads, and I have tried to explain the limitations of my OCC volunteer Super user role.

Following the appearance of a "stop" notice on the renovations on the Fox, I contacted a senior planning officer to ask him to investigate and intervene to try to resolve the issues of works being done which required planning permission for a listed building. He convened a meeting with the owner, and works have re-commenced, so I am hoping that some amicable arrangement has been reached.

I had a message from a resident in Frances Road expressing concern that the proposed new rugby post may be situated behind the gardens on Frances Road which could cause issues. I spoke to Chris Puttick re these concerns, and he said no decision had yet been taken on the siting of the post.

I have had no update from WODC or OCC re the annual gulley clearing, nor the proposed road sweeping. I have written again to both authorities to get clarification, and I will update the meeting if I hear from either.

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